(c) if so, the funds made available to Gujarat Government as on 30th November, 1995 and proposed to be made available during the rest of the period of its completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. RAJASEKARA MURTHY): (a) and (b): Yes, Sir.

(c) Funds aggregating to Rs. 155.20 crores has been spent as reported for the entire project in question upto 20th November, 1995. However, the remaining funds would be made available in a phased manner keeping in view *inter-alia* availability of resources under the Central Sector Road programme.

Requirement of Cooking Gas in Hill Districts of up

2466. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:
SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any survey about the requirement of cooking fuel being used by the people in the eight hill districts of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether any such survey/ study will be made to assess the requirement of cooking fuel of the people of these districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (c): Oil Companies have been making a continuous assessment of the requirement of LPG in the 8 Hill Districts of Uttar Pradesh. Based on the assessment made as above, all the major places in these districts have been covered for marketing of LPG by opening of LPG distributorships and extension points, in line with the policy for avoiding deforestation in hilly areas.

The Oil Companies are under instructions to clear the entire waiting list (as on 1.4.1995) in areas above 4500 ft. altitude during 1995-96 50% of the waiting list (as on 1.4.1995) in areas between 2000 to 4500 ft. during 1995-96 and the remaining 50% during 1996-97.

It has now been decided to release LPG connections on demand to the consumers from 1.1.1996 for the markets above 4500 ft. altitude and from 1.4.1996 at all places at an altitude beyond 2000 ft.

Amendment in Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and National Forestry Policy, 1988

2467. SMT. KAMLA SINHA:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to states:

(a) whether Government have decided to amend the Forests (Conservation) Act, 1980 and National Forest Policy, 1988 for making available forest land to industries/ private organisations for undertaking plantation and for other activities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government in this direction so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (c) A proposal for "Involvement of Industries in Afforestation of Degraded Forest land" which incorporates certain modifications in the National Forest Policy, 1988 has been projected to the Deptt. by Paper and Pulp Industry for consideration. However, no amendment has been proposed to the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Some State Govts. also had approached the Central Government with suggestions to tap the resources of industries to augment the current afforestation efforts especially in view of the increasing threat of encroachment upon large quantum of degraded forest land in the country, and the need to afforest it urgently in order

to expand green cover inhibit encroachment and check soil erosion, as also to meet rural fuel and fodder needs, and thereby reduce pressure on existing natural forest and protected areas.

The scheme under consideration will be finalised only after assessment of various issues involved.

United Nations Children's Conference on Environment in England

2468. SHRI RAMNATH KOVIND:
DR. RANBIR SINGH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether United Nations Children's Conference on Environment in Eastbourne, England was organised in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof with objectives;

(c) whether the conference was represented by India;

(d) whether Government propose to take up some programmes to encourage more and more children of the country to create awareness about environment; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) An International Children's Conference on the Environment was organised by Conference Associates and Services International Ltd., at Eastbourne in the United Kingdom from 23—25 October, 1995.

(b) The objectives of the Conference were to voice the concerns of children, to develop a global network to promote positive action and produce a charter to present to their respective Governments and the United Nations.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Children are involved in environmental programmes through a scheme for 'Eco-club' of this Ministry. An Eco-club may be set up in a Government recognised middle/high school with 20—50 students. The Objectives of the scheme are:

— to educate children about their immediate environment and causes of its deterioration;

— to impart knowledge about the role of different factors in an eco-system, their inter-dependence and their need for survival, through field visits and demonstrations;

— to mobilise youngsters by instilling in them the spirit of scientific enquiry into environmental problems; and to involve students in environmental preservation efforts.

A sum of Rs. 1000/-per annum is provided to each eco-club. The best eco-clubs are also given awards annually.

गुजरात में पेट्रोलियम परियोजनाएं

2469. **श्री गोविन्दराम मिरी:** क्या **पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार सौराष्ट्र के उदयमान तेल क्षेत्रों के कुछ प्रखंडों को कतिपय संयुक्त उद्यम परियोजनाओं को सौंपने पर विचार कर रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है,

(ग) क्या इस प्रयोजनार्थ कुछ हद तक कोई विदेशी पूंजी आमंत्रित की गयी है;

(घ) क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय ने जामनगर में इस परियोजना के स्थापनार्थ अपनी स्वीकृति प्रदान कर दी है;

(ङ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है, और

(च) क्या गुजरात उच्च न्यायालय ने मोटी खावड़ी परियोजना को पर्यावरण संबंधी मानदण्डों के उल्लंघन के लिए कोई आदेश जारी किया है?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (कैप्टन सतीश शर्मा): (क) और (ख) भारत सरकार ने संयुक्त उद्यम अन्वेषण कार्यक्रम के अंतर्गत तेल और गैस के अन्वेषण के लिए निजी कंपनियों को गुजरात कच्छ-तटीय बेसिन में जी के-ओ एन जे—1